

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05338 011408Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 /031 W
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R 010945Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9117
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS JIDDA 5338

USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SA
SUBJ: SAUDI PRESS COMMENTARY CASTIGATES ARAB LEAGUE

1. THERE FOLLOWS A TRANSLATION OF A COMMENTARY ENTITLED
"THE LEAGUE: SHEEP OR WOLF" BY "IBRAHIM" IN AL-RIYADH OF
JULY 25, 1977. WE REPEAT BECAUSE OPEN ATTACKS ON PAN-ARAB
INSTITUTIONS EXTREMELY RARE IN SAUDI PRESS.

2. BEGIN TEST:
MOHMOUD RAID, THE ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL, HAS STATED
THAT THE EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN CRISIS WILL BE VERY SERIOUS UNLESS IT
IS CONTAINED. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT MR. RIAD INFORMS
US THAT HE IS THERE AT THE TOP OF THE ARAB LEAGUE.
MR. RIAD'S WARNING REQUIRES A PAUSE ESPECIALLY WHEN HE
STRESSES THAT WAR EXTEND TO OTHER ARAB STATES UNLESS IT
IS CONTAINED. WE DO REALIZE THE STATE OR STATES WHICH HE
MEANT. WE HEARD THE SAME TONE DURING THE CIVIL WAR IN LEB-
ANON. THIS MEANS THAT MR. RIAD'S LEAGUE IS NOT CAPABLE OF
SETTLING ANY DISPUTE BETWEEN ANY TWO MEMBERS. MR RIAD WENT
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TO BEIRUT AND OFFERED TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES ON BEHALF OF
ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB
LEAGUE IS IN AN UNENVIABLE POSITION BECAUSE HE HAS NO MEANS
TO DO WHAT HE WANTS. THE LEAGUE IS IN A DEEP SLEEP AND HE
IS PROBABLY AFFECTED BY THAT.

WE CAN ASK MR. RIAD WHEN THE SITUATION HAS NOT BEEN SERIOUS?
WHEN CAN THE LEAGUE BE CALLED UPON TO SETTLE TINY DISPUTES.

IF BIGGER ONES ARE BEYOND ITS MEANS?

THE SITUATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY SERIOUS AND THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE LEAGUE'S NEGLIGENCE. AS A RESULT OF ITS LACK OF INTEREST IN THE ARAB DEFENSE MINISTERS RESOLUTIONS, SOUTH LEBANON WAS DESTROYED BECAUSE OF ITS NON-CONTAINMENT OF EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE, THE SITUATION ESCALATED INTO A DISGRACEFUL FIGHTING BETWEEN ARABS. HE ASKED US TO MOBILIZE EFFERTS TO CONTAIN ISRAEL, NOW HE CALLS FOR EFFORTS TO STOP SPILLING OF ARAB G BLOOD.

AS FOR LEBANON, THE ARAB LEAGUE COULD DO NOTHING BECAUSE THE DIRTY MASSACRES THERE WERE BEYOND ITS MEANS WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT RIAD'S PRESENT WARNING WILL HELP US TO CONTAIN THE FIRE BEFORE IT EXTENDS TO OTHER PARTS SO THAT WE MUST CRY FOR RESCUE AND HELP. BUT THIS TIME NOBODY WILL BELIEVE US BECAUSE WE HAVE CRIED "WOLF" SO OFTEN IN THE PAST.
END TEXT.

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